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W. H. Taft



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT was born on September 15, 1857, the son of one of the leading public men of Ohio, Alphonso Taft, who had served in the Cabinet of Grant as Secretary of War, and afterwards as Minister to Vienna. The son graduated from Yale in 1878, studied for and was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of law in Cincinnati. He married Miss Helen Herron, and has three children.

As was natural from his ancestry and surroundings Mr. Taft became actively interested in political affairs as soon as he was admitted to the bar; but his leaning toward, and taste for, the law were very strong, and he had no idea of following any other than a legal and judicial career. He served on the State bench of Ohio, and was appointed Solicitor General of the United States by President Harrison. In both positions he attracted the attention of all who were brought in contact with him, by his power of thought and of statement. As Solicitor

view he established permits the prevention of that cruel practice which puts upon the most helpless the whole burden of injury received because of the risks inevitable in certain employments. These two decisions meant much from the standpoint of the wise use of the National power, for they meant that the National power could be used on the one hand to secure just treatment for labor, and on the other hand to secure adequate control over the vast aggregates of corporate capital through which modern business is done. But Judge Taft was exactly as fearless in dealing with labor when it went wrong as in controlling capital when it needed control. When the country was convulsed from one end to the other with riot and violence, when every time-serving politician was bending like a reed before the blast of agitation, Judge Taft, as fearless physically as morally, upheld order and repressed the violence of mobs, by the wise and proper use he made of the great power of injunction.

After the Spanish War President McKinley appointed Mr. Taft Governor of the Philippines. The annals of colonial administration of all nations can be searched in vain to find any man who did better a more difficult and important work than that which it became Mr. Taft's duty to do during the next four years. His inde-

fatigable industry, his broad sympathy, his energy, his fearlessness, his generosity, and his ability to see and do justice, combined to render him able to perform a service such as no other man could have performed. He showed not one particle of sentimental sympathy with wrong-doers; he did not hesitate to sanction the use of force whenever it was needed; and yet he made it evident that his purpose was to do credit to the United States by administering the Philippine Islands in the interest of the Filipinos themselves. They have since repeatedly shown their intense devotion to him; and it has been well warranted, for no people in their condition have ever had a stauncher, wiser or more efficient friend. He looked out for the material well-being of the Islanders, and he also started them on the difficult path of self-government, arranging the conditions so that the young generation had the chance to go to school, and the older men the chance actually to try to govern themselves, first in their local bodies and finally in a legislative assembly.

Then Mr. Taft was made Secretary of War. From the beginning he showed himself not merely the efficient head of his Department, not merely a Cabinet Minister of the first class, but a statesman of far-reaching initiative and foresight. In addition to the regular work

connected with the army he kept oversight of the entire Philippine situation, and superintended in person all that was done in connection with the giant task of building the Panama canal. When the revolution occurred in Cuba he at once went to the Island, and by the measures he took secured the tranquil and peaceful development of Cuba during the intervening years; and by the peace which he thus secured he made certain the withdrawal of the American troops, and thereby gave Cuba the chance once more to start upon a career of independence. Meanwhile, there was no great policy in which the American people were concerned, at home or abroad, which he did not study and with which he has not since identified himself. No man of better training, no man of more dauntless courage, of sounder common sense, and of higher and finer character, has ever come to the Presidency than William Howard Taft.

Theodore Roosevelt



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JAMES SCHOOLCRAFT SHERMAN

HON. JAMES SCHOOLCRAFT SHERMAN, of Utica, New York, was born in Utica, October 24, 1855, receiving the usual American schooling, and graduating from Hamilton College in 1878; he was admitted to the practice of the law in 1880, and in 1884 elected mayor of the city of Utica. He was a member of the Fiftieth Congress, and from that time, with the exception of two years, has been in continuous service of his home district in congress. In addition, he has found the time to engage successfully in several business enterprises, and to carry on an important law practice. This has not prevented tireless industry in his congressional work. He has not only served his immediate constituency with fidelity and success, but has with rare ability, contributed to the formation and enactment of the great general measures which have absorbed the public attention for the last twenty years.

He is an interesting and attractive man; a born friend-maker. Dignified without austerity;

amiable without effusiveness; modest without diffidence; aggressive without pugnacity; effective without display; he moves forward in his work industriously, without fuss or friction, with a thoroughness and rapidity which have made him for many years one of the most useful and influential members of the house of representatives. He is a ready and forceful debater, a clear and convincing speaker. He is far and away the best parliamentarian in congress, and a presiding officer of the very first rank.

All of his associates on both sides of the House are his friends. After twenty years of almost continuous service in congress, it is a very significant tribute to a man to be able truthfully to say that he has no enemies on either side of the House.

Mr. Sherman would rather do a favor than ask one, yet no man is more appreciative of a kindness, nor slower to forget one. His even temper, his genuine unselfishness, his aggressive desire to assist others who may need assistance, his human sympathy which manifests itself in his every expression and attitude, his radiant and ready smile, his unfailing courtesy and complete self-mastery, give him a most winning personality. He says "yes" with finality, and "no" with reluctance. Even while refusing a

request he conciliates, and in conferring a favor succeeds in conveying the impression that he has actually received one.

He is as brave as he is genuine, and as firm as he is kind. He is an earnest and clever student of men and an excellent judge of character. He is ready with a jest, a pleasant word, a cordial handshake, or a friendly inquiry, but is slow to wrath, slow to criticism, slow to rebuke; but with it all, on all matters of principle, he is as firm as a rock and absolutely uncompromising. His convictions are clear-cut and staunch, and while he is not given to obtruding them offensively, he is always ready to defend. For twenty years he has been almost continuously in the searchlight and under the microscope of public inspection. His life and his character constitute an open book, every page of which is clean, wholesome, inviting and inspiring. He has a straightforward, steady gaze, quite in harmony with his straightforward methods.

He believes in party, and particularly in his own party. He believes in party government and the desirability of party responsibility, as over against individual responsibility.

He has faith, firm as the hills, in the superiority of the representative form of government. This ever has been and ever must be founded

because it is established and tried. He is always ready to put to the trial of the test-tube and the hammer, any accepted, as well as any proposed, condition.

Perhaps the whole character of the Vice-President may be summed up in the sentence: "He is one of the best types of high-minded, representative Christian American gentlemen, who has made good under working conditions." He has been tried and found not wanting. He is not a dreamer, nor a poser, nor a noisy advocate of impossible and undesirable extremes, but one of our best American citizens, one of that class who have been busy doing things for the improvement of existing conditions, who have been devoting their lives and abilities to converting the ideals of yesterday into the realities of to-day, and who have been moving forward and onward and upward in a safe and sane way and making the United States a great and growing nation, where opportunities for each are more and better than anywhere else in the world. In temperament and training, in ability and in experience, he is fully equipped and qualified to fulfil the duties of his position.





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